the Northern Grid. In order to augment the supply of electricity in Delhi, steps have been taken for improvement of the performance of IP and Badarpur Thermal Power Stations, strengthening of Transmission and Distribution System in Delhi, establishment of 135 MW capacity at Rajghat TPS. In addition, the National Capital Power Project (840 MW) is also being set up to meet the long term requirement of Delhi. A 600 MW Gas Project at Dadri is also envisaged. These measures are likely to ensure reliability of power supply in Delhi.

Wage agreement between Coal India Limited and trade unions

79. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Fourth National Coal Wage Agreement has been finalised and signed between the Coal India Limited, and five Central trade unions in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what is the impact of this agreement on the prices of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) A signed understanding has been recently arrived at between the CIL management and Central trade unions on most of the major demands of the workers relating to increase in their wages, transport subsidy, house rent allowance, underground allowances etc., but issues like increase in ceiling of gratuity amount, life cover schemes difficulty allowances etc. are yet to be finalised.

(b) The ultimate impact of the arrangement on prices of coal will be known only after all the issues have been settled and agreement, after clearance from Government, has been duly concluded and signed by the Management and Central Trade Unions.

Subsidence in the coal fields

80. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidence in the coalfields particularly in Raniganj and Asansol have assumed alarming proportions now;

(b) if so, what are the details of subsidence during the last three years;

(c) what are the reasons for such subsidence; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Instances of land subsidence have been reported from time to time in Raniganj and Asansol areas over the last several years. Subsidence of land has been due to unscientific exploitation of coal during pre-nationalisation days. Details of areas where subsidence has been reported during the last three years (1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89) are given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) At present mining operations are carried out strictly in conformity with rules and regulations and as per conditions imposed by the Director General Mines Safety. Extraction of coal below built up areas is done only in conjunction with sand stowing.